

REMARKS

The foregoing amendments are responsive to the Office Action mailed on June 30, 2004. Claims 1-8 are pending in this application. By the foregoing amendments Claims 2-6 have been canceled. Thus, Claims 1 and 7 and 8 are presented for examination.

Discussion of the Office Action

In the Office Action of June 30, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §112, he rejected claims 1, 4, 5 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), and he rejected claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. §103.

Discussion of Claim 6

Claim 6 has been amended to meet the Examiner's objections. Specifically, Claim 6 has been rewritten as independent claim 1 that includes the limitations of claim 1 from which it originally depended, as suggested by the Examiner. In view of the amendments to Claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests allowance of Claim 1 and dependent claim 7 and 8.

Discussion of Rejection of Claims 1 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §112

In view of the amendments, the issues related to 35USC 112, second paragraph are submitted as being moot.

Discussion of Rejection of Claims 1, 4, 5, and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §102

In view of the amendments, the issues related to 35USC 102, second paragraph are submitted as being moot.

Discussion of Rejection of Claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. §103

In view of the amendments, the issues related to 35USC 103, second paragraph are submitted as being moot.

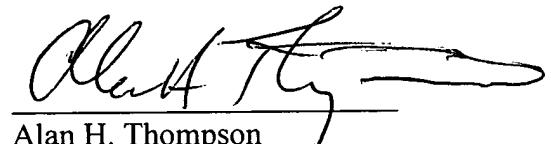
SUMMARY

Having amended the title and the claims, and having submitted new claims, as discussed above, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1, 7 and 8 are in condition for allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests allowance of Claims 1, 7 and 8.

Accompanying this communication is a Petition to extend the prosecution on this matter for one month and the appropriate fee.

In the event that the Examiner finds any remaining impediment to the prompt allowance of these claims that could be clarified with a telephone conference, he is respectfully requested to initiate the same with the undersigned at (925) 422-7820.

Respectfully Submitted,



Alan H. Thompson
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 29,981
Telephone (925) 422-7820

Dated: Dec 1, 2004,